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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00  
EB-08 DODE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 LAB-04 PA-01 STR-17  
SIL-01 INRE-00 OPM-01 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /046 W  
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R 111054Z MAY 87  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1688  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
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Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
☒ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify  
Date 11/27/02 Exemption \_\_\_\_\_

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PARIS FOR LABATT

ROME FOR LABATT

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PROP, PGOV, ELAB, PREL, US, NU, XK, FI  
SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN MINISTER, PEACE DELEGATION VISIT  
FINLAND

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REF: (A) HELSINKI 1498, (B) HELSINKI 1167,  
(C) HELSINKI 1260, (D) HELSINKI 2269, (E) HELSINKI 1997

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION CABLE. SEE PARAGRAPH 7.
2. (U) IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS FINLAND HAS PLAYED HOST TO A NUMBER OF VISITORS FROM NICARAGUA. THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS SOCIAL MINISTER REINALDO ANTONIO TEFEL, WHO WAS IN THE COUNTRY ON APRIL 20-25 AS THE GUEST OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND, AN ARM OF THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP). IN INTERVIEWS GIVEN TO THE SDP'S NEWSPAPER "SUOMEN SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTI" AND THE

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"MODERATE" COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER "KANSAN UUTISET", TEFEL MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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-- THE POPE HAS CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SANDINISTAS.

-- THE NEW PAPAL NUNCIO IN NICARAGUA HAS MADE THE BISHOPS NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

-- RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SANDINISTAS AND THE OFFICIAL CHURCH HAVE "IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY" SINCE LAST YEAR.

-- A WORKING GROUP IS CONTINUING THE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN BETWEEN DANIEL ORTEGA AND THE CARDINAL OF MANAGUA.

-- "ONLY AFTER THE USA'S AGGRESSION HAS ENDED", THE BISHOP WHO "OPENLY ASKED FOR INTERVENTION" FROM THE UNITED STATES MAY RETURN, AND "THE SAME APPLIES TO 'LA PRENSA', WHICH ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT."

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-- IF THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES COMES FROM THE LIBERAL WING OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE SANDINISTAS "ARE SURE" THEY CAN NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION WITH HIM.

-- THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WILL NOT APPROVE FURTHER AID TO THE CONTRAS.

-- THE CONTRAS CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST THE ARMY BUT RATHER SOLELY WAGE A CAMPAIGN OF TERRORISM AGAINST TOWNS AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES, I.E., AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS.

-- DURING THE SOMOZA DICTATORSHIP THERE WERE NORMAL LABOR UNIONS IN NICARAGUA. TODAY THERE ARE "1030 DIFFERENT KINDS OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS" TO WHICH 113,000 OF NICARAGUA'S POPULATION OF 3.5 MILLION BELONG.

-- SINCE SOMOZAS'S FALL, 2800 COOPERATIVES HAVE BEEN CREATED.

-- NICARAGUA WILL NEED CONTINUOUSLY DIRECT INTERNATIONAL AID UNTIL THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN CAN BE REALIZED.

DURING HIS SOJOURN IN FINLAND, TEFEL CALLED ON THEN-SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH MINISTER EEVA KUUSKOSKI-VIKATMAA (CENTER PARTY), DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION VAPPU TAIPALE (SDP), THEN-CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ERKKI LIIKANEN (SDP), AND "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE SDP, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS" (IN "KANSAN UUTISET'S" WORDS). BESIDES

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THE ABOVE-MENTIONED NEWSPAPERS, HIS VISIT WAS REPORTED IN A SHORT ARTICLE IN THE "STALINIST" COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER "TIEDONANTAJA".

3. (U) THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NICARAGUAN PEACE COMMITTEE (CONIPAZ), MARIA GARCIA, AND THE COMMITTEE'S EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OFFICER, LESLIE OMAR, VISITED FINLAND IN EARLY MAY AND RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN FINLAND'S COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS. IN INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED ON MAY 5, GARCIA APPARENTLY DID MOST OF THE TALKING; HER MAIN POINTS WERE:

-- THE CONTRAS WERE RESTRAINED ONLY "MOMENTARILY" BY THE SCANDAL OVER THEIR FINANCING.

-- THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA IS BETTER THAN 2-3 YEARS AGO, BUT THE UNITED STATES IS ENCOURAGING THE CONTRAS TO MAKE NEW ATTACKS.

-- THE CIA HAS BEGUN A MAJOR CAMPAIGN IN HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA TO CLEANSE THE REPUTATIONS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE CONTRAS.

-- THERE ARE MANY MEN IN THE CONTRAS' RANKS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RETURN HOME TO NICARAGUA FROM HONDURAS UNARMED, BUT THE CIA HOLDS THEM IN ITS TIGHT GRIP AND WILL NOT LET THEM GO.

-- THE NICARAGUANS BELIEVE THAT MILITARY EXERCISES, SUCH AS "SOLID SHELL", ARE PRELUDES TO A DIRECT ATTACK BY THE UNITED STATES.

-- "THE KEEPING OF GUERRILLAS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY'S  
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BORDERS IS FELT ALSO IN NICARAGUA'S EXPORT EARNINGS, WHICH HAVE COLLAPSED IN A SHORT TIME FROM 450 MILLION DOLLARS TO 218 MILLION DOLLARS" (FROM "KANSAN UUTISET").

-- FINNISH PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS THE FINNISH MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION (KTV) ARE COLLECTING 200,000 STORM LANTERNS FOR NICARAGUA. THESE ARE NEEDED FOR RURAL WORKERS "WHO MUST WAKE UP AT 3:00" TO GO TO WORK AND FOR ADULTS WHO STUDY AT NIGHT AFTER WORK.

4. (U) IN ADDITION, "SUOMEN SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTI" IS CONDUCTING A LOW-SCALE CAMPAIGN IN ITS "ON THE LINE" COLUMN IN FAVOR OF THE DISPATCH OF FINNISH PEACE CORPSMEN ("KEPA TEAMS") TO NICARAGUA. INITIALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DECIDED NOT TO DO SO (REFTEL A), BUT

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SDP ACTIVISTS MAY TRY TO BRING ABOUT A RECONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER NOW THAT SDP CHAIRMAN KALEVI SORSA IS FOREIGN MINISTER.

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5. (C) COMMENT: THE TWO VISITS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AIMED AT DIFFERENT BUT SPECIFIC PURPOSES. TEFEL SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO REASSURE THE FINNS ABOUT CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN HIS COUNTRY AND ABOUT THE SANDINISTAS' RESPECT FOR TRADE-UNION RIGHTS. GARCIA AND OMAR, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMED TO TAKE A MORE ANTI-AMERICAN, ANTI-CONTRA LINE, EMPHASIZING THE ALLEGED THREATS TO NICARAGUA FROM MILITARY MANEUVERS BY THE UNITED STATES. IT MAY BE THAT THE FINNS ARE BECOMING MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE SANDINISTAS' PERFORMANCE IN THESE AREAS.

6. (C) IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS THE OPPOSITION HAS

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INVITED TO FINLAND TWO NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS: TEFEL AND JAIME WHEELOCK (REFTELS B AND C), GARCIA AND OMAR, AND A SALVADORAN PRIEST (REFTELS D AND E). DURING THIS SAME PERIOD, NO ONE FROM CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND ONLY ONE AMPART CAME TO THE COUNTRY TO TALK ABOUT CENTRAL AMERICA. NO ONE CAME FROM ANY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY OR GROUP.

7. (C) ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REBUTTALS THE DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY MANAGUA MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE TO THE CHARGES MADE BY TEFEL AND GARCIA, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE CHURCH AND LABOR UNIONS. BECAUSE OF THE TENDENCY OF FINNS TO ACCEPT UNQUESTIONINGLY ANYTHING SAID BY THE SANDINISTAS, WE EXPECT TO BE CONFRONTED BY ASSERTIONS THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE THE COMPLETE TRUTH. ALSO, EMBASSY REITERATES ITS REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGE THE VISITS OF WELL-KNOWN, CREDIBLE CENTRAL AMERICANS TO NORTHERN EUROPE UNDER NON-USG AUSPICES. SCHNABEL

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